

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 3-5 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite by not providing basis for which certain ratios are calculated. Claims 3-5 have been amended to recite "a hydrogen to hydrocarbon molar ratio" (claim 3) and "platinum and/or palladium in an amount of between 0.01 wt % to 5 wt %" (claim 5). Applicants submit that all pending claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Hollstein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,956,519) ("Hollstein"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hollstein fails to anticipate the subject matter of claims 1-3 and 5. Hollstein does not disclose, teach or suggest "contacting the feed . . . with a catalyst composition consisting of mixed aluminium and zirconium oxides modified with tungsten oxyanion and hydrogenation/dehydrogenation component of a Group VIII metal," as amended independent claim 1 recites.

Hollstein discloses a catalyst composition in the form of a mixture of oxides or hydroxides from a Group III **or** Group IV metal, a Group V **or** VI **or** VII metal **and** an oxide of a Group VIII metal (see claim 1), and not a catalyst composition consisting of aluminum oxide **and** zirconium oxide, i.e., an oxide of Group III metal **and** a Group IV metal, **and** a metal from Group VIII, as recited in amended independent claim 1. Thus, the catalyst of Hollstein is completely different from the catalyst composition used in the claimed

process. In addition, Hollstein discloses only use of a sulphated catalyst composition containing the oxides of Ru, Fe or Mn on zirconium oxide. For at least these reasons, Hollstein does not anticipate the subject matter of claims 1 and 3-5, and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is solicited.

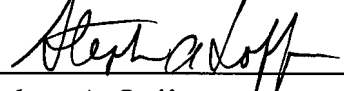
Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollstein. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hollstein does not disclose or suggest all limitations of dependent claims 2 and 4. As noted above, Hollstein does not disclose or suggest all limitations of amended independent claim 1. Hollstein also fails to disclose all limitations of claim 4. Hollstein teaches a catalyst that "preferably contains a major amount of oxide or hydroxide of metal from the first class and a minor amount, preferably in the range from 0.02 to 15.0 weight percent, more preferably 0.1 to 4.5 weight percent, of total metal from the second class and Group VIII metal." (Col. 2, l. 58-63). Thus, Hollstein teaches a catalyst that contains tungsten oxide and a Group VIII metal in a minor amount (a range of 0.02 to 15.0 wt %) with the remainder being aluminum oxide (oxide or hydroxide of metal from the first class) in a major amount of at least 85 wt%, and not comprising "10-40 wt % aluminium oxide," as claim 4 recites. For at least these reasons, the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 4 is also respectfully requested.

Allowance of all pending claims is solicited.

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